

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 12583 041429Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 STR-07 /045 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1801

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 12583

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, MX
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON LABOR STANDARDS

REF: STATE 136706 AND 194523

1. WITH THE SINGLE EXCEPTION DESCRIBED IN PARA 2 BELOW, WE KNOW OF NO MEXICAN LAW, PRACTICE, OR INEQUITY IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW WHICH WOULD FAVOR THOSE EMPLOYERS OF WORKERS OCCUPIED IN THE EXPORT FIELD AS OPPOSED TO THOSE PRODUCING FOR THE DOMESTIC MARKET. WHILE THERE IS A HIGH PORTION OF MEXICAN EMPLOYERS OF UNSKILLED LABOR WHO FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE MINIMUM-WAGE REGULATIONS, WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO EVIDENCE THAT THERE IS VARIANCE IN THIS NON-COMPLIANCE WHICH FAVORS THE EXPORT EFFORT.

2. WE BELIEVE THERE IS AN UNWRITTEN AGREEMENT BETWEEN ORGANIZED LABOR AFFILIATED TO THE GOVERNING PRI PARTY AND THE GOM NOT TO FORCE UNIONIZATION UPON THOSE EMPLOYERS IN THE "IN BOND" INDUSTRIES, WHICH STRONGLY RESIST SUCH EFFORTS. MOST OF THESE OPERATIONS, ESTABLISHED UNDER THE ITEM 807 OF OUR TARIFF CODES, ARE UNIONIZED, AND ALL WITH WHICH WE ARE FAMILIAR ARE COMPLYING WITH THE LABOR AND MINIMUM-WAGE LAWS. THOSE FEW "IN BOND" INDUSTRIES, MOSTLY CONFINED TO THE STATE OF SONORA, WHICH RESIST UNIONIZA-
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TIONAL EFFORTS ARE NOT PUSHED BY PRI LABOR UNIONS.

3. MEXICAN LABOR LAW IS NOT CODIFIED OR FOUND IN ANY SINGLE VOLUME, BUT FOUND AT THE CHRONOLOGICAL POINT OF PASSAGE IN THE REGULAR STATUTES. IT APPEARS IN HUNDREDS OF HUGE VOLUMES. THE INDEX SUMMARY AND INDEX ALONE CONTAINS 796 PAGES OF FINE PRINT. WE KNOW OF NO ENGLISH TRANSLA-

TION OF EVEN THIS SUMMARY. THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
HAS DEVELOPED SEVERAL USEFUL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAMPHLETS
FOR INFORMATION OF POTENTIAL INVESTORS OR EMPLOYERS, BUT
THESE WOULD NOT SERVE THE REQUEST MADE IN STATE 136706
PARA 3. LUCEY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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